



December 22, 2014

**GOV. MALLOY ANNOUNCES 2015 STATEWIDE
CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM**

Date Set for May 12, 2015 at Connecticut Convention Center

(HARTFORD, CT) — Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism will host a 2015 statewide tourism conference for industry professionals in the state's leisure, hospitality and tourism sector.

Once again named the Connecticut Governor's Conference on Tourism, this year's event will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, from 8 am to 4 pm at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The goal of the conference is to bring together professionals from every aspect of Connecticut's tourism industry — including hotels, restaurants, casinos, tourist attractions, entertainment venues, historic sites, and cultural and arts institutions — to share best practices and learn from national tourism and travel experts.

"This year's Conference on Tourism presents a great opportunity to highlight our accomplishments in one of our state's fastest growing sectors — one that generates billions of dollars in annual revenue and represents more than 100,000 jobs in our workforce. Since launching our Connecticut *still revolutionary* campaign, our state's tourism industry has seen a 7 percent increase in leisure and hospitality jobs and higher visitor spending. And since this time last year, we've seen a 26 percent increase in visitors to our CTvisit.com website," said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. "These numbers demonstrate that the investments we are making to strengthen our competitiveness, grow our tourism industry and promote what makes Connecticut such a great place to live, work, visit and play are paying-off."

This day-long industry conference will feature:

- Top speakers presenting the latest research and best practices
- Inspiring sessions for every level industry professional
- New Governor's Tourism Awards for outstanding industry leaders
- A broad array of workshops, as well as an exhibition of the most innovative products and services in the tourism sector

In addition, the conference will feature a special report on the results of the state's *still revolutionary* campaign over the last three years.

"We're particularly pleased that this event, which is the industry's premier gathering of professionals across the state, will once again be run by our state's own Office of Tourism in partnership with the Connecticut Convention & Sports Bureau," said Catherine Smith, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community

Development. "We're all committed to making this a source of insights and inspiration for attracting even more visitors to enjoy Connecticut's dynamic blend of offerings."

A variety of conference sponsorship opportunities are available for innovative organizations offering products and services for the tourism industry. To learn more about sponsorships, exhibit opportunities or to get your tickets, please contact Susan Henrique, Connecticut Convention & Sports Bureau at (860) 882-1101 or Randy Fiveash, Director, Connecticut Office of Tourism at (860) 256-2769.

"This is a great time to be in the travel and tourism business in Connecticut," said Randy Fiveash, Director, Connecticut Office of Tourism. "Research shows that by working together, we've been able to attract millions of visitors to Connecticut, drive significant revenues for the state and accelerate job growth in the sector. Our goal is to help all of our industry partners capitalize on this incredible momentum."

ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

The Connecticut Governor's Conference on Tourism is an annual statewide conference that provides educational and networking opportunities for all levels of professionals across every aspect of the travel and tourism industry. This event is produced by the DECD Connecticut Office of Tourism in partnership with the Connecticut Convention & Sports Bureau.

Contact:

Kathleen Stevens

Connecticut Office of Tourism
203-605-1838 (cell)
KStevensPR@gmail.com

Jim Watson

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
860-270-8182 (office)
860-306-3737 (cell)
Jim.Watson@ct.gov